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Reflection on Christ and **Hope** in the New Testament

This semester was really interesting. I felt like I learned so much about the New Testament. I have never dived so deeply or learned so much about the context of the latter half of the New Testament. The books of Acts through Revelation have provided profound insights into the life, teachings, and significance of Christ, told by others around him and after him. During my reading this semester I really enjoyed highlighting any mentions of Christ as well as the idea of **Hope**.

It was very interesting to see all the different references to Christ in the New Testament. There was a good amount of references to Christ, Jesus, and the Son of God. However, there were also other references such as Alpha and Omega, First and Last, and Firstborn. These were different, but still pointed clearly to Christ. A harder part of this challenge was associating Christ with more abstract terms like Amen, Rock, Apostle, Passover, and Author. This always required context. However, such words like these help us learn more about Christ. For example, in Revelation 3:14, Christ is referred to as Amen. This word teaches me that Christ is truth. In this religion, we say amen to show that we accept a testimony, a talk, to show that we agree. This signifies, we admit, that what they say is true. Therefore, this name teaches me that all truth is in and comes from Christ. It was also very interesting to highlight the words “he” and “him.” This was very interesting because it required reading more than just the word, but the whole sentence and sometimes the paragraph to understand who this referenced. Most of the highlighting I did for Christ was through the words “he” and “him.” This showed me how prevalent Christ really is, even when it is not clear or direct. This idea turned into a life lesson. Often we don’t see Christ clearly in our lives. We did not live with him, we do not see him physically. However, we do see his touch in the church. Sometimes we also see him in good moments, while other times in bad. Although, just like I said, it is often not clear. In life we have to look for him, we have to search. Sometimes we need to recall back to the past or reread the sentence and the context before. Other times we need to wait on the future or read the next sentence, the next paragraph to really see where Christ is. Life is about finding him, just like we had to find him in the scriptures. If we actively search we will see how prevalent he really is in our lives.

In exploring the theme of **Hope**, it was actually quite tricky to find it. There are not as many references to hope as there are to Christ. Most of the time hope was not clearly discussed, but understood. The early Christians must have had a lot of hope with all their persecution, trials, and tribulations. This taught me that hope should be expected with faith and does not need to be clearly stated. We should have hope because we want to, not because it is expected of us. We hope because we believe. In Hebrews, we see Hope described as an anchor. Hope is an anchor for the soul and can anchor us in our daily lives. If we hope, there are many great things to come. This was a great lesson I learned as I marked the references to hope. Hope can bring joy and happiness in despair because it allows us to know that things can and will get better. The New Testament frequently reinforces the idea that hope is not just wishful thinking but rather a confidence and expectation deeply tied to God and the promises given through Christ.